FOURTH

ANNUAL ANNOUNCEMENT

OF THE

HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PENNSYLVANIA.

SESSION OF 1851—52.

PHILADELPHIA:
C. SHERMAN, PRINTER.
1851.

OFFICERS OF THE COLLEGE.

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J. B. PETHERBRIDGE, M.D.,
DEMONSTRATOR OF ANATOMY.

WILLIAM A. GARDINER, M.D., *Dean.*

MARTIN DERR, *Janitor.*

REMARKS.

The announcement of another course of lectures to be delivered in the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, is made with increased satisfaction, in consequence of the evidences which are everywhere presented, of the deep and abiding impression which the great law taught in this Institution, is making upon mankind.

Fallacies plausible in theory, may be sustained by favourable circumstances. Numerous examples of such, are found in the histories of politics, science, and religion. But such errors, be they either limited in extent, or of wider diffusion, sooner or later crumble through their own defectiveness, or from conflicting with facts revealed by observation or experiment.

In the applicability of the law of *similia similibus curantur*, in all varieties of climate, circumstance, and condition, is found a strong argument in testimony of its truth. For more than half a century it has been passing through an ordeal so severe and searching, that were it not a primary law of creative Intelligence, it must have long since incurred the penalty of other errors. But its march is ever onward and victorious; though assailed by the sneers of the ignorant, the witticisms of the thoughtless, and the grave and authoritative criticisms of the learned; together with the means of opposition which wealth, station, and even penal enactments could employ to accomplish its destruction. But it had to surmount a still greater obstacle that those just adverted to, viz., the trials of learned and experienced physicians, made with a view to test its truth, and perhaps, more frequently to detect its fallacy. Such men, notwithstanding the adverse character of their preconceived opinions, must have believed that there were some truths in science yet to be learned, and whenever such trials were fairly conducted, a conviction of the truth of Homœopathy was the certain result.

The method of instruction pursued by the different teachers of this College, is that which after much inquiry and reflection was considered most advantageous to the pupil, viz., examinations upon the subjects lectured upon. The plan of requiring students first to read upon a subject without having had any previous instruction thereon, and then undergo an examination and hear a lecture, appeared to nullify the great object of lecturing, which is to impart, within a specified period, the greatest amount of selected material, and in such manner as makes the most durable impression. By the method of first reading, the knowledge acquired would necessarily be limited, the greater part of the time allowed to a course being consumed in explaining difficulties, removing erroneous impressions, and in pointing out such facts, and their elucidation, from among the range of subjects travelled over, which are more necessary than others to be understood, with a view to a substantial basis for future study, all of which is anticipated by the method adopted, viz., that of first lecturing, and then examining.

A difference of opinion also prevails in regard to the duration of time which a full course of lectures should continue. The session of this Institution commences on the second Monday of October, and continues until the first of March ensuing; during which time more than six hundred lectures are delivered, besides clinical instruction. A zealous and faithful persistence on the part of the different teachers in the performance of their duties, imposes a degree of attention and study, which affords the pupils time scarcely sufficient for the indulgence of that exercise and repose, deemed absolutely essential for the maintenance of health. Did the course of instruction continue for six weeks longer, the minds of the pupils would be perplexed, overtasked and wearied with the burthen required to be borne. The teachers themselves would probably become careless, the students indolent, and many of them far distant from their homes, beyond its wholesome restraints, and away from its associations, incur the risk of yielding to some of the many temptations which in large cities beset the pathway of the young and inexperienced. The additional expense also, of so prolonged a residence in a city, is with many an important consideration. This view of the subject renders it apparent, that a curriculum of more than four months is rather to be deprecated than desired, neither productive of benefit to the student, nor calculated to enhance the reputation of those Institutions by which it may be adopted.

A more full and complete course of instruction is given in this Institution than is usual in other medical colleges. The endeavour will be made by the teachers to present the different objects of study in a manner to sustain attention; and this is the more easily accomplished in consequence of the highly philosophical and comprehensive law of homœopathy imparting a stimulus to more minute and scientific research. This deeper interest is elicited not only from witnessing the effects of minute doses of medicinal atoms upon the animal economy, but from the fact that many of the recent developments in various branches of science, reveal phenomena as the results of causes either very attenuate or even inappreciable, excepting in their effects.

The law of *simile* leading to a closer approximation of the causes of phenomena, and their more rigid observation, and thence to their more ready solution, infuses into the teachings of all the branches of medicine an extraordinary interest.

The Professor of Biology and Pathology, therefore, will, in addition to a general description of healthy and diseased function, demonstrate the minute structure of organs and tissues, their peculiarities as exhibited in health and in disease, and explain those differences of sensation which are expressive not only of the nature of the morbid action but of the kind of structure affected; thereby obtaining the indications for the remedial measures to be adopted.

From the Chair of Anatomy, instructions will be given both of a general and special nature—those parts will be particularly dwelt upon, an accurate knowledge of which, is necessary for a successful surgical practice. When upon the distinctive characters of structure; for example, upon the tissues or cerebro-spinal system, opportunities will be afforded for remark upon phenomena connected with an abnormal condition of such parts and their specific therapeutical indications.

Throughout the course of lectures upon Materia Medica and Therapeutics, there will be pointed out the relative value of medicinal symptoms, as well as such as are characteristic; likewise, those diagnostic qualities by which to select from numerous medicinal symptoms apparently corresponding with those presented in disease, the properly adapted medicine. All the facts necessary to be known in the history of plants in their connexion with medicinal properties; the parts used, the cautions to be observed, and the means to be employed in their preparation, will be fully explained. Similar instruction will be given in relation to the articles obtained from the animal and mineral kingdoms.

It will be the duty of the Chair of Homœopathic Institutes and Practice of Medicine to expound the law of *similia similibus curantur;* to divest it of all hypothetical embarrassment, and present it in its simple, and, therefore, in its most forcible aspect as a great law of nature. To explain, also, the rules of its application; and in further confirmation of its truth, show how it adapts itself to every modification of morbid action. The histories of disease will be succinctly given; but to their symptoms, diagnosis, and prognosis, and especially to their treatment, the most minute directions will be bestowed.

It will be the province of the Clinical Instructor to teach the proper mode of examining patients with a view to the most correct appreciation of their condition, and to designate the appropriate means of relief. An important part of these examinations, in a very great number of cases, is auscultation; the knowledge of which is indispensable to correct diagnosis, prognosis, and treatment. To this Chair belongs likewise instructions in regimen, clothing, ventilation, and such other circumstances which not only aid nature in her restorative efforts, but are absolutely necessary to the favourable action of medical agents.

The course of Chemistry and Toxicology will be full and complete. This branch of science when studied specially as an aid to medical practice is invested with additional interest to the Homœopathic student. In which relation much greater nicety and precision are required in the preparation of medicinal agents. The interest is likewise increased from the striking analogous facts which this science furnishes in support of the law of *similia*, in the minute division of atoms as detected by chemical tests, and in the wonderful phenomena effected by agents which are possessed of neither weight, volume, nor colour, viz.: light, heat, and electricity.

The teachings of the Chair of Surgery will be in accordance with the great reform which the Homœopathic principle has wrought in all other branches of medical science. By its influence the field of Medico-Surgery is completely reformed and enlarged, and the surgeon is enabled to relieve without resort to painful operations many diseases which were formerly surrendered to the knife. But, as all operations performed may again be necessary, and as many of the subjects of accident or disease can be relieved only by surgical contrivances or operations, they will be taught in all their minutiæ by this Chair. The most approved methods of operating will be shown upon the subject, or illustrated by models, &c., and when opportunity offers, on the patients before the class.

The female sex is subject to many and varied ailments. Whilst the peculiarity of her organization renders her more obnoxious to disease, it for the same reason causes a greater susceptibility to medicinal action. In no branch of medicine is the power of Homœopathy more frequently and strikingly witnessed than throughout the entire range of the diseases of females. The period of utero-gestation, which, under Allœopathic management, may, with truth, be regarded as a pathological condition, under Homœopathic guidance is what nature designed, a physiological process. In the diseases of the puerperal state, as well as those occurring during lactation, Homœopathy exhibits its incomparable superiority. Upon the instrumental part of obstetrics, the most minute instructions will be given. To the Chair of Midwifery belongs also the diseases of children; to a consideration of the most serious of their complaints a portion of the course will be devoted.

The remaining Chair to be noticed is that of Botany and Medical Jurisprudence. As a necessary adjuvant to Materia Medica, the necessity of a knowledge of the former of these subjects is obvious. A large portion of our remedial agents is obtained from the vegetable kingdom, and from the same source we expect to receive, hereafter, many important acquisitions. In addition to the regular winter course of Lectures, a summer course, given by the Botanical Professor, affords students, in rambles over the country, a favourable opportunity to acquire a practical knowledge of this subject. To Medical Jurisprudence, in most colleges, little, if any attention is given; and yet, upon its possession may rest, not only the individual reputation of the physician for a proper knowledge of his profession, but upon the amount of such knowledge may depend also, the reputation, property, or even lives of individuals, who, whether innocent or guilty, are arraigned before the tribunals of justice. The vast importance of the law of simile in times long past, had it been known, would afford, were this the proper occasion, a curious as well as interesting subject for consideration.

These brief outlines set forth that, Homœopathy is an essential element of practical medicine, and that it unites all the different parts into an harmonious whole. This position being assumed, it follows that, the study of medicine in any other connexion, with a view to practice, would, at least, be a useless expenditure of time. An expense which cannot be afforded from a period so limited, as to be no more than sufficient to acquire the knowledge absolutely demanded of the candidate for a medical degree. The plan, therefore, pursued by some gentlemen, of attending a course of Lectures in an Allœopathic College and completing their studies in one in which Homœopathy is taught, while it has nothing in it to be recommended, has much to be condemned.

To the efforts made by Allœopathic teachers to prejudice the minds of their hearers against Homœopathy, no importance is attached; such means, if in the least operative, having a tendency to provoke, rather than to paralyse inquiry. All things necessary to be known are as fully, and it is believed, as well taught in Homœopathic as in Allœopathic Colleges; the chief difference, and it is of vital import, being found only in the practical teachings. In Allœopathic Institutions a large portion of time is consumed in the study of flimsy hypotheses and of their mischievous and disastrous practical results. In Homœopathic Institutions this same time is given to explain a law which constitutes the only philosophical basis of practical medicine, to teach its mode of application, and to display its gratifying results.

In addition to the regular Lectures, Clinical instructions are given at stated times by the different Professors in the College, and from the numerous patients applying to the Dispensary for medical aid an extensive range of disease presents for study. A Physician is in daily attendance also, at the Dispensary, which latter is located within the College building, from whose examinations of patients and prescriptions the students of the Institution will have abundant opportunity to acquire practical information.

To render the course of instructions of this College complete, nothing more was wanting than the establishment of a hospital, which desideratum will soon be realized. A charter has been granted—funds are collecting, and under the administration of its present board of energetic managers, efforts are making for placing the charity shortly in operation. The suggestion of a hospital having emanated in the College, the present board, with a just regard to that circumstance, have associated the medical officers, most of whom are Professors in the College, in their deliberations, and exhibit a willingness to concur with such suggestions as will make the arrangements of the charity subserve the objects of clinical instruction. Fortunately such arrangements are those best suited to the interests of the patients. Before the commencement of the course of lectures now announced, it is confidently believed that the hospital will be serving the causes both of humanity and science.

The different branches taught in the College with a view to their more easy and certain acquirement, will be illustrated by plates, diagrams, mannikins, &c., &c., and all the usual means employed with such intention.

It may be proper to observe that, the College building is situate in a central part of the city. The building itself having been constructed with a special view to the purposes to which it is now appropriated. The lecture-rooms are commodious, and the part allotted to dissections is admirably adapted to the purpose, being large, well ventilated, and supplied with all the conveniences necessary for the comfort of those engaged in the study of practical anatomy. There is also a large, well-lighted and furnished apartment, for the use of the students, when engaged in mutual examinations, in discussions, or other purposes whose object is improvement.

The museum of the College, though yet in its infancy, contains ample materials for study, in wax models, anatomical preparations, morbid and healthy specimens, both in a dry and wet state —a very large collection of anatomical, surgical, and obstetrical plates of the size of life—a cabinet of minerals, specimens of the materia medica, philosophical instruments, &c., &c.

In conclusion, it is scarcely necessary to notice the many advantages which a large commercial city possesses for the prosecution of all literary and scientific research. A few of these advantages will be found in the frequent intercourse of many individuals engaged in the pursuit of the same avocation, by which a rapid communication of knowledge ensues. In access to large and choice libraries and museums—in opportunities of hearing lectures and witnessing demonstrations upon almost every branch of science. In a word, in having at hand every facility by which to accomplish whatever is desirable, either in art, literature, or science.

REGULATIONS OF THE COLLEGE.

The affairs of the institution are under the control of a Board of Managers, consisting of the President of the College and twelve gentlemen, elected annually by the Corporation.

The Faculty shall have authority to elect their own officers, consisting of a President and Dean, hold meetings for the purpose of arranging and conducting the business of their department, and for the preservation of order and decorum among the medical students.

The winter Course of Medical Lectures will begin annually on the second Monday in October, and end about the first of March ensuing.

Graduates of respectable Medical Schools shall be permitted to attend the Lectures of the College free of expense, except the payment of the Matriculation Fee.

A candidate for graduation must be of good moral character, and be possessed of sufficient preliminary education; have attained the age of twenty-one years, have applied himself to the study of medicine for three years, attended two courses of medical lectures, the last of which must have been in this Institution; and have been during that time, the private pupil, for two years, of a respectable practitioner of medicine.

Students who have attended one complete course of Lectures in another Medical School, may become candidates by attendance upon one full course in this Institution.

The candidate, when making application for an examination, must exhibit his tickets to the Dean, or give other satisfactory evidence to the Faculty, to prove that the above regulations have been complied with.

Special examinations in particular cases may be had, with the consent of the Faculty.

The Examination of the candidates for graduation will begin about the middle of February; and the commencement for conferring the Degree of the College, shall be held by a special mandamus of the Board of Managers, as soon after the close of the Lectures as practicable.

The candidate, on or before the first of February, must deliver to the Dean of the Faculty a thesis composed by himself, and in his own handwriting, on some medical subject, which shall be referred to one of the Professors for examination.

The Essay must be written on thesis paper, of a uniform size, the alternate pages being left blank.

A thesis may be published by the candidate, permission of the Medical Faculty being first obtained.

The candidate shall pay the fees of graduation at the time of presenting his thesis, and in the event of his rejection, the money shall be returned to him. The order of the examinations of the candidates shall be determined numerically by lot.

The examination shall be conducted in private by each Professor, and the voting in the case of every candidate shall be by ballot.

A student receiving two-thirds of the whole vote of the Faculty, shall be considered as having passed.

If in the opinion of the Faculty a candidate would be very much benefitted by attending another course of lectures, of which the Dean will inform him, he may withdraw his thesis without being considered as rejected.

If a candidate should not be successful in the first ballot, and one or more of the Professors have any remarks to make in relation to his qualifications, they shall be heard, and if the case demands it, a second vote may be taken. In unsatisfactory cases, the candidate may avail himself of a second examination before the whole Faculty, with their consent.

Formal notice of the successful examination shall be given by the Dean to the passed candidates, each of whom shall record his name and address upon the Register of Graduates, with the title of his thesis.

The names of the passed candidates are to be reported by the Dean to the President, who will communicate such report to the Board of Managers, in order, if approved by them, their mandamus be issued for conferring the degree.

A passed candidate shall not absent himself from the commencement without the permission of the Faculty.

Amount of fees for a full course of Lectures, - - - - - -	$100 00
Matriculation fee (paid once only), - - - - - - -	5 00
Practical Anatomy, - - - - - - - - - - -	10 00
Graduation fee, - - - - - - - - - - - - -	30 00
Fee for students who have attended two full courses in another medical school,	30 00

The matriculation ticket must first be obtained of the Dean, before any other tickets can be purchased.

The tickets must be taken by the first Monday in November, except in special cases, to constitute a full course.

Students who have attended two full courses of instruction in this Institution, or one full course in this school, and one or more in another respectable medical school, shall be admitted to the subsequent courses of the College without further charge.

The Medical Faculty shall have authority to consider and decide upon cases of special application for admission to the lectures.

WILLIAM A. GARDINER, M. D.
No. 303 Arch St.
Dean of the Medical Faculty.

Philadelphia, June, 1st. 1851.

MATRICULANTS OF THE COLLEGE.

SESSION OF 1850-51.

Name.	Residence.	Preceptor.
Armor, Smith	Delaware,	Dr. Caleb Harlan.
Armor, Thomas	Delaware,	Dr. Caleb Harlan.
Ashton, Adolphus H.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. A. E. Small.
Baker, Joshua T.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. D. R. Gardiner.
Barton, Joseph	Pennsylvania,	———
Bauer, George Joseph	Ohio,	Dr. Adolphus Bauer.
Bigelow, J. G.	New York,	Drs. Richardson and Loomis.
Brewster, A. Judson	New York,	Dr. Lewis McCarty.
Brown, William	Pennsylvania,	Dr. H. N. Guernsey.
Callender, J. Cameron	Canada West,	Dr. A. N. Wolverton.
Clarke, Henry B.	Rhode Island,	Dr. Peleg Clarke.
Comstock, T. Griswold (M.D.)	Missouri,	Univ. of Missouri.
Cooper, John F.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Charles Bayer.
Crocker, Isaac Senter	Rhode Island,	Dr. A. H. Okie.
Cushing, John J.	Rhode Island,	Dr. A. H. Okie.
Dake, Jabez P.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Gus. Reichhelm.
Davis, William A.	Pennsylvania,	———
Dowdall, P. Bower	Virginia,	———
Duffield, Henry	Pennsylvania,	Dr. A. D. Lippe.
Everson, William K.	Pennsylvania,	———
Geiger, Chas. A. (M.D.)	Maryland,	Univ. of Virginia.
Gibson, Andrew J.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Fred'k Ehrman.
Gilman, John B. (M.D.)	Philadelphia,	Jefferson Med. Col.
Guernsey, Wm. F.	Vermont,	Dr. H. N. Guernsey.
Gumpert, B. B.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. M. Semple.
Helmuth, Wm. T.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. W. S. Helmuth.
Henry, John H. (M.D.)	Alabama,	Univ. of New York.
Holmes, William H.	Pennsylvania,	———
Houghton, Henry A.	Vermont,	Dr. C. B. Darling.
Houard, John G.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. W. A. Gardiner.
Janney, Daniel (M.D.)	Virginia,	———
Johnson, Isaac	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Caleb Harlan.
Laurie, Joseph (M.D.)	London, (Eng.)	Univ. of Edinburgh.
Lee, John K.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. W. Williamson.
Lindsay, Albert	Massachusetts,	Drs. G. W. Swazey and C. B. Matthews.
Merriman, Charles L.	New York,	Dr. T. Merriman.
Merriman, Wm. B.	Michigan,	Dr. J. Tunnicliffe.
Metcalf, William	Pennsylvania,	———
Minier, William S.	New York,	Gardiner and Sims.
Moore, J. D. (M.D.)	Pennsylvania,	Philadelphia College.
Mulford, Joseph L.	New Jersey,	Dr. R. Gardiner.
Musgrave, J. Freedley	Pennsylvania,	Dr. S. Freedley.
McDowall, John	Manchester, Eng.	———
Nichols, John S.	Massachusetts,	Dr. L. V. Nichols.
Paine, Joseph P.	Maine,	Dr. Wm. E. Payne.
Pierce, T. A. (M.D.)	Pennsylvania,	———
Power, Wm. B. (M.D.)	Pennsylvania,	———
Pratt, David S.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Leonard Pratt.
Randel, John M.	Maryland,	Dr. W. Williamson.
Raymond, Jonas C.	New York,	Dr. E. A. Munger.
Reed, William Ashton	Pennsylvania,	Dr. James Kitchen.
Ring, Hamilton	Maryland,	Dr. A. E. Small.
Savage, Andrew M.	New York,	Dr. James Savage.
Shearer, John H.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. A. E. Small.
Steck, John H.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. W. Williamson.
Stevenson, Thomas Collins	Pennsylvania,	Dr. Ad. Lippe.

Name.	Residence.	Preceptor.
Stone, Joshua	New York,	Dr. L. M. Kenyon.
Terrell, C. M.	Texas,	
Thomas, Richard (M.D.)	Pennsylvania,	Philadelphia College.
Toothaker, Charles Everett	Vermont,	Dr. A. E. Small.
Turner, John	Michigan,	Dr. John Ellis.
Tyson, Henry (M.D.)	Pennsylvania,	Pennsylvania College.
Vastine, T. Jefferson (M.D.)	Missouri,	Jefferson Medical College.
Whitcomb, De Witt Clinton	Massachusetts,	Dr. H. N. Guernsey.
Williams, George C.	Pennsylvania,	
Williams, Thomas C.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. T. S. Williams.
Wilder, Daniel	Massachusetts,	Dr. G. W. Swazey.
Wilkinson, Ross M.	Pennsylvania,	Dr. J. D. Moore.
Woodbury, William L.	New York,	Dr. Alpheus Morrill.
Worman, Andrew D. (M.D.)	Maryland,	

Total, 70.

GRADUATES OF 1851.

At a Public Commencement, held March 3d, 1851, in the Musical Fund Hall, the Degree of the College was conferred by the HON. A. V. PARSONS, President, upon the following gentlemen:—

Name.	Residence.	Subject of Thesis.
Armor, Smith	Delaware,	Hygiene.
Armor, Thomas	Delaware,	Erysipelas.
Barton, Joseph	Pennsylvania,	Angina Pectoris.
Bauer, George Joseph	Ohio,	Digestion and Nutrition.
Bigelow, Joshua Gregory	New York,	Dysentery.
Comstock, T. Griswold	Missouri,	
Crocker, Isaac Senter	Rhode Island,	Pleuritis.
Cushing, John J.	Rhode Island,	Epidemic Dysentery.
Dake, Jabez P.	Pennsylvania,	Medicinal Forces.
Dowdall, P. Bower	Virginia,	Calomel.
Geiger, Charles A.	Maryland,	Dysentery.
Henry, John H.	Alabama,	The Science of Medicine.
Holmes, William H.	Ohio,	Typhoid Bilious Pneumonia.
Houard, John G.	Philadelphia,	Yellow Fever.
Laurie, Joseph	London, Eng.	Antagonism to New Medical Theories.
Lee, John K.	Pennsylvania,	Homœopathy—its Progress and Destiny.
Lindsay, Albert	Massachusetts,	Present Position of Medical Science.
McDowall, John	Manchester, Eng.	Manchester Dispensary.
Merriman, Charles L.	Michigan,	Life.
Minier, William S.	New York,	Hepatitis.
Mulford, Joseph L.	New Jersey,	Boletus Laricis.
Pratt, David S.	Pennsylvania,	Intermittent Fevers.
Raymond, Jonas C.	New York,	Croup.
Ring, Hamilton	Maryland,	The Path. and Mat. Med. of Homœopathy.
Stevenson, T. Collins	Pennsylvania,	Arsenicum Metallicum.
Toothaker, Charles Everett	Vermont,	Secretions and certain Urinary Diseases.
Vastine, Thomas Jefferson	Missouri,	
Wilder, Daniel	Massachusetts,	Dyspepsia.
Williams, George C.	Pennsylvania,	Cynanche Trachealis.

Total 29.

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INTRODUCTORY LECTURE

TO THE

CLASS

OF

THE HOMŒOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF

PENNSYLVANIA,

Delivered October 16, 1851,

BY WILLIAM A. GARDINER, M.D.,

PROFESSOR OF ANATOMY.

PUBLISHED BY THE CLASS.

PHILADELPHIA:
KING & BAIRD, PRINTERS, No. 9 SANSOM STREET.
1851.

Philadelphia, October 21st, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—

The Class of the Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania, have deputed the undersigned to procure for publication a copy of your instructive and interesting Address, delivered before it on the 16th inst.

In preferring this request, allow us for ourselves and classmates, to assure you, that your assent will be regarded as an additional evidence of kindness, towards those who are happy to be numbered among your friends, no less than pupils.

Yours very respectfully.

A. H. ASHTON, Pa.,
JOSEPH G. ROWLAND, Ill.
GUSTAVUS BLOEDE, Germany,
JOSHUA STONE, N. Y.,
H. C. ANGELL, R. I.,
JOHN F. GARDNER, M.D., Va.,
CHARLES V. DARE, N. J.
JOHN M. RANDEL, Md.
JOHN G. WOOD, N. H.,
HENRY A. HOUGHTON, Vt.,
C. PEARSON, Ohio,
JOSEPH P. PAINE, Me.,
I. E. CHASE, Mass.

To WILLIAM A. GARDINER, M.D., Professor of Anatomy, Homœopathic Medical College of Pennsylvania.

Philadelphia, October 27th, 1851.

To Messrs. ASHTON, RANDEL, ROWLAND, WOOD, *et alias*.

GENTLEMEN,—

Your communication of the 21st inst., soliciting a copy of my Introductory Lecture, for publication, has been received.

In compliance with your wishes, I have placed the manuscript at your disposal. Accept for yourselves, and bear to your fellow-students, my best wishes, warmest sympathies, and ardent hopes.

I remain,
Your very obedient servant,
W. A. GARDINER,
No. 303 Arch St.

INTRODUCTORY ADDRESS.

THE domain of human knowledge is so comprehensive, that it is impossible for one intellect, however gigantic, to examine all its departments, and master its details. A spirit of progress has pervaded the various departments of Science and Art, and carried investigation to a high standard; the arcanæ of Nature have been opened, her truths manifested, and her beauties unfolded. The bowels of the earth have been exhumed and made to speak the history of nations, which centuries since passed from existence; the different strata which compose the surface of the globe, have been dug up, and their properties ascertained; the heavens have been scanned, and the celestial orbs which float in the infinitude of space, are brought within our vision, their magnitude ascertained, and their revolutions and orbits correctly defined; the forked lightning no longer plays in unlimited freedom, it has been chained and made subservient to the will of man; by mechanical contrivances, space has been annihilated, and the inhabitants of different hemispheres united as one family; the various animal, vegetable and mineral bodies, which diversify the surface of the earth, have been subjected to elaborate inspection, their structure demonstrated, and their properties elucidated. All around us we see this spirit of advancement, every day brings its discovery to enrich Science and improve the Arts.

Of the various pursuits which have engaged the attention of mankind, none claims a higher antiquity than Medicine. We can pass back into the primeval ages of the world, and in imagination, surmise Adam, through an imperious necessity, to have been the first accoucheur; or we can urge that circumcision was strictly a surgical operation, although performed in obedience to a law contained in the ritual of Moses; or by the aid of Homeric Song, we can acquaint ourselves with the surgical treatment practiced at the siege of Troy. Coming still nearer, we can view a heathen temple erected upon the banks of a limpid stream, surrounded by enticing landscapes, and guarded by the symbols of Astrology; entering its imposing portals, and threading our way through its magnificent halls, we can attempt to decipher the hieroglyphical records stamped upon its polished walls; or by refering to authentic record, we can date the time when the rude and unchiseled fragments were collected, and made fitting stones in the colossal temple of Medical science—when the foundation and corner stones were laid—when it underwent a becoming transformation from art to science. But it is not my purpose to detain you with a lengthened detail of discoveries and theories, although it would be interesting and instructive for us, to turn over in order the dusty leaves of time, and read upon their lettered pages, the history of the past; by this means we can, in our imagination, call up the slumbering dead, the worthy pioneers, examine each individual character, and compare them one with another; we can ascertain who were the greatest, by what means they attained their fame, and weigh the influence of personal exertion upon the advancement of Medical science.

In the apportionment of labor in this Institution, the chair of Anatomy has been consigned to my charge; and upon the present occasion I wish to examine, briefly, into the history of this science, and the relations existing between it and the co-ordinate branches of our study.

The Anatomical structure of the human body, was but little known during the lifetime of Hippocrates, as neither he, nor any of his associates, pursued cadaveric investigations. Physiology in the sense we understand it, was a dead letter; apart from Anatomy, Physiology would be an idle tale; and the following is a specimen of the pathology of that period. "The body of man contains blood, phlegm, and two sorts of bile, yellow and black. Such is its nature, and through these it is well or ill; it is in health, when each of these exists in its just proportion of quantity and strength, but especially when they are well commingled. It is ill when any one of them is in excess or deficiency, or is separated in an unmixed state; for when so separated, not only must the part in which it is defective suffer, but likewise that upon which it is cast, becoming overloaded, suffers pain and irritation." The foundation of the library and school of Alexandria, ushered in a new epoch for Medical science; dissections of the human body were commenced at this time —three centuries before Christ. Herophilis and Erasistratus were the pioneers in this department; they made frequent cadaveric researches, and also had recourse to the vivisection of animals, and it is stated of Herophilis, that he did not hesitate to operate upon living criminals, when furnished him for the sake of science: following this, was erected a physiology based upon observation. The Ancients were ignorant of the primitive developments of animal life; they were unacquainted with the microscopic appearance of the various tissues, and many intricate processes which to us appear quite simple. The Anatomy of the Ancients was of the grosser kind, only requiring the naked eye to reveal it; but even this effected an entire revolution in the whole science; it pointed out the correct road for research, and developed the true method of observation; it established a focus from which radiated correct information and undeniable truths; it was the nucleus of the whole science, —it was the corner-stone of the edifice.

But this desirable progression, revealed truths which the Ancients with all their wisdom and sagacity, were unable to analyze; they indulged in subtle discussion respecting the seat of the vital principle, and other metaphysical questions, and finally became lost amidst their own hazy and uncertain deductions. In addition to this, the Roman conquest put a sudden and positive prohibition to dissections; the Arabic invasion, destroyed the Alexandrian school and library, and thus strangled science in its infancy, in its very cradle. The Roman people, stained with the bloodiest crimes, could lay waste empires, slay men, women and children by thousands, and leave their bodies to decay upon the field of blood, and their bones to bleach by the noonday sun, deemed the contact of a dead body a profanation, and utterly at variance with their views of propriety; and even Alexander, the conqueror of empires, and slayer of thousands, through his senseless ambition, would not permit his tutor Aristotle to dissect anything nearer to humanity than a 'baboon.' It is a singular inconsistency, that man, who has so little feeling for the living, should tenderly respect the dead bodies of his fellows: public feeling and written laws have always discouraged dissections of the dead; and even in some of our States, there are statutes in force, which keep the Anatomist in continual dread of the law; and even in communities where the laws permit it, and where anatomical researches are conceded to be useful and necessary, private feeling still rises in opposition, and the most important secrets of disease, are daily allowed to be buried in the grave, because of the idle superstition which sees in dissection, and post-mortem examinations, a violation of the supposed sanctity of the dead.

Galen was the most distinguished Anatomist of ancient times. He profited by the dissections and recorded testimony of his predecessors. According to his own testimony, he dissected but little, the laws prohibiting the pursuit. He mentions having seen two human skeletons, one was that of a robber, who had been killed by the road side, and the flesh eaten from his bones by vultures; the other was washed from a cemetery by the rising of the waters of the river: both of which instances he esteemed as great favors. His own immediate investigations were confined to the dissecting of animals, whose structure approached nearest that of the human body; his works, which necessarily partake of the nature of compilations, have descended to posterity as the only reliable authority of that era, and are thought to fully portray the then existing state of science. With Galen, the ancient school of anatomy ceased. The Roman Empire held the sceptre of power, and the entire civilized world succumbed to her domination. The renowned schools of classic Greece no longer resounded with the discussions of her philosophers; all the departments of science and learning were hushed into a long and deep slumber by the aggrandizements of unholy conquest. The prejudice of a superstitious people and their religious veneration for the asylums of the dead, put a sudden check to all cadaveric researches, and the scalpel of the Anatomist lay idle for sixteen centuries; medical science was prostrated, and the entire profession disbanded.

The meagre details which descended to posterity, passed into the hands of Arabians, who held them until called for by the revival of letters in the fourteenth century. In Europe, during the dark ages, very little was heard of medicine; it partook of the deep slumber which pervaded all departments of learning; there being no restrictions adopted for practice, ignorant persons assumed the title of doctors, and "knights of the razor" officiated as surgeons. During this long period, pigs, monkeys and other of the lower animals were alone submitted to anatomical inspection; and the first dissection of human bodies was performed by Mondini at Bologna, in 1315, and which may be viewed as an act of singular boldness. Shortly after he published a short manual of Anatomy, illustrated by wood-cuts; and although the descriptions it contained were very imperfect, it constituted the only text book in the schools, besides the writings of Galen and the Arabists, for more than two centuries. Near the end of the 15th and beginning of the 16th centuries, the prejudice against the study of Anatomy began to diminish, the Popes removing their interdictions against it, and the Italian universities furnishing the first opportunity for its public pursuit. Dissections were publicly performed at Bologna and Pavia before the 16th century, and shortly after this, the celebrated Sylvius pursued the study of anatomy with great vigor at Paris. None of these admitted anything contrary to the laws of Galen, but as a derogation from the ordinary laws of nature, or the result of a degeneracy of the human race. At last, however, a true man of genius, Andrew Vesalvius, appeared; a hard student in ancient literature, he also early devoted his attention to anatomy, dissecting while yet a boy every animal he could meet with, and stealing his first skeleton from the gibbet itself. Arriving in Paris, he was not contented with the lectures of Sylvius, but still sought every opportunity for examining nature, even to the extent of disinterring bodies in the cemeteries, a practice at that superstitious period attended with risk to life. So rapid was his progress, that at the age of twenty-three years he was nominated Professor of Anatomy at Padua, and at twenty-nine he published his celebrated work, which immortalized him. Vesalvius was the first who ventured to expose the errors of Galen, arising as he said from the fact of his observations having been made on Apes. This raised a violent opposition to his researches, headed by his old master Sylvius, but as the young professor founded his criticisms upon the observations of nature, he finally triumphed; the blow once struck againt the predominance of Galen, was amply followed up by the labors of Columbus, Eustachius and Fallopius, cotemporaries and friends of Vesalvius, and who must share with him the honor of laying the foundation of the modern school of anatomy. Dissecting rooms were then opened, and unclaimed bodies, as well as those of criminals, were given up to the Anatomist. The Roman Pontiff, who had so long obstructed the progress of Anatomy, then took the initiative in forwarding it. Anatomical plates were published representing the parts dissected with great accuracy, and the anatomical discoveries made were numerous.

The true structure of the heart was then first demonstrated, and the recognition of the valves of the blood-vessels gave the first inkling of the discovery, which afterwards immortalized Harvey,—the circulation of the blood. The study of Anatomy being then fully established, superstition and ignorance were compelled to yield before the shrill voice of its votaries; Surgery awoke from its lethargy, and advanced hand in hand with Anatomy. The name of Ambrose Paré distinguishes this period. Paré was originally a country barber-surgeon; he studied with much earnestness in Paris, where he repaired to qualify himself. In 1536 he joined the army as surgeon, and while in that capacity made one of the most valuable discoveries of his time, substituting the ligature for boiling oil or tar in amputations. Thus, with Vesalvius and Eustachius in the field of Anatomy and Physiology, Paré in the department of Surgery, Gulemea in Obstetrics, the science became fully established, rose in dignity and importance, drawing to its shrine the famous and learned throughout Europe.

The ancients believed the liver to be the organ of sanguification, and the veins, the only vessels which contained blood, took their rise in this organ; the arteries were said to contain the vital spirits, whose great reservoir was the heart; the respired air was subtleized and conveyed by the pulmonary veins to the heart, for the fabrication of the vital spirits; in this manner the lungs were cooled and freed from the danger to which they were exposed by their close proximity to the heart, the centre of animal heat, and thus establishing an æther as the source of the vital spirits. This theory was overthrown by Servetus, and followed immediately by the discovery of Harvey. Having studied minutely the structure of the heart, and the mechanism of its valves, it developed in his fertile mind a truth, the magnitude of which was to startle the whole profession, and draw, even from his associates, the severest animadversions, which finally ripened into unrelenting persecution.* In

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* Renouard.

1622, Aselli, while dissecting a dog, discovered the lacteals, and Pequet, 1647, while yet a student, described the thoracic duct. During the eighteenth century, the lymphatics were studied and accurately described. Herophilis entertained some correct notions upon the nervous system, although he confounded the nerves with tendons and ligaments. He divided the nerves into three varieties. One variety arose from the brain and spinal marrow, serving for sensation and voluntary motion; a second variety served to unite bones; and a third to join muscles to bones. But it remained for the Anatomists of the last century to proclaim the true structure and function of the nervous system, and it is in this particular department that the Anatomists of the present century excel. From this time forward a spirit of investigation and discovery has pervaded the profession, and anatomical studies have been pushed to such an extent, that at the present day we have a perfect anatomical record; and in fact there is no part of the human body that has not been subjected to elaborate study, and its intricate structure correctly unfolded; and when it seemed that the entire field had been explored and the minutiæ detailed, the ever restless spirit of discovery implanted in the breast of man, opened a new and unexplored world, replete with interest and beauty. The microscope was introduced, and objects beyond the reach of naked vision unfolded; the elementary structure of organized bodies correctly described; the primitive cell, cell wall, nucleus and nucleolus, delineated with surprising accuracy.

From this hasty and imperfect schedule, we can form a faint conception of the meanderings of anatomical science from the day of its introduction; and what a chequered course does it exhibit? The spark, when struck by Herophilis and Erasistratus in ancient Greece, seemed immediately to light a flame which shed its brilliancy over the entire scientific world, but suddenly as by the breath of a hurricane, the hand of tyranny quenched it, and nothing remained, but the smoking embers as a trace of its ancient splendor; then, after a long lapse of time we see it again lighted up under the influence of Sylvius and Vesalvius,—they called co-laborers into the field, and through their combined agency, darkness was dispelled, and science reinstated upon a basis even firmer than the original. The names of Winslow, Albinus, Munro, Cheseldon, Haller, Bichât, Hunter, and Bell, are associated with its advancement and shine as stars of the first magnitude; their labors are recorded in the archives of science, the richest biography that can be penned to their memories.

The present is a fitting occasion to point out the relative value of anatomical study, and to urge the importance of becoming conversant with all its details, as it constitutes an essential feature in the curriculum of medical education. It has been asserted that the Homœopathic school renounces the study of Anatomy, Pathology, and Physiology. Is this true? My position before you this evening, is undeniable evidence of its falsity. I feel free to say that the qualified practitioners of Homœopathy in the United States, are as correctly informed in the structure and economy of the human body, as an equal number of any other class of practitioners. I am aware that there are some pseudo-disciples who ignore the study of these branches; such are welcome to their opinion: but be assured they are groping their way in darkness, without the polar star of our profession as a guide: they are merely symptomatologists

I flatter myself that the students who have gone forth from this Institution, to offer themselves to their fellow-men, as prepared to take charge of their lives and health, are fully qualified in all the branches which pertain to medical competency. If we examine critically the history of Medicine for more than two thousand years, it will be perceived that Anatomy has always been in advance of the other departments of study, acting the part of a pioneer. When cadaveric researches were prohibited in the Roman empire, the entire profession fell palsied; and when the laws again permitted their prosecution, the science arose, as if awakened by the halo of light which it engendered. Anatomy is the stepping-stone upon which you must first tread; it is the key-stone which supports the entire arch. As well might the mariner attempt to guide his ship through the trackless ocean without being acquainted with the situation and performance of the various tackle, the manipulations of which, govern it, as for the physician to apply medicine and attempt curative means without an adequate knowledge of the structure upon which he wishes to operate. Anatomy teaches the mysterious mechanism of our frames, and explains the structure of the various organs, which are the theatre of interesting chemical and physiological processes,—the instruments of our intellectual powers,—the agents of the immortal spirit,—the engines by which it exercises its high purposes, and accomplishes its mighty achievements; it unfolds the wonderfully-contrived machinery by which the mind of man holds converse with the external world, the mysterious agency of spirit upon matter. Upon it depends that beautiful department of our science, Physiology, which may indeed be styled the poetry of medicine; and if nothing were gained beyond the enlightened and comprehensive views of Nature which it teaches, who amongst you would not lay a broad foundation for its future investigation by a careful study of Anatomy. By a knowledge of the nervous system alone, is the physician prepared to understand phenomena which every day's experience brings to his notice, and which are embraced under the word sympathy, a term however having great latitude, and often used as a mantle for ignorance. A single example will serve to illustrate this truth familiarly and forcibly. In most persons the rays of the sun falling upon the retina produces sneezing; the impression is transmitted through the optic nerve to the brain, where the nervous power is developed, and transmitted through the nasal nerves to the schneidrian membrane, where a new sensation arises, which is sent back to the nervous centre, and *reflected* upon the respirator muscles, when an explosive expiration follows. The same is true of diseased sympathy, and explains why pain is first discovered at the knee in morbus coxarius, and the shoulder in hepatic disease, or the left arm in angina pectoris. These examples of sympathy, which are in constant progress in the animal system, in all their wide range of influences and modifications, can only be explained and understood by a knowledge of the anatomical relation of parts.

A correct knowledge of the bones of the pelvis, the diameters of the superior and inferior straits, with the situation and strength of the various ligaments, is indispensable to the accoucheur, and for the skillful and successful treatment of the diseases of females, definite information respecting situation and structure is required.

Pathology likewise, an interesting and important branch of our study, is based upon Anatomy. To obtain correct ideas of the cause and result of diseased action, presuposes an acquaintance with the normal appearance of the different organs of the body, and their healthy functions: hence both Physiology and Pathology may justly be considered branches of Anatomy, holding the same relation to that system, as twigs to a parent stem.

Surgery, that eminently practical branch of our profession, whose objects are to obviate the effects of injuries, to replace whatever is broken or displaced, and to remove from the system whatever has become useless or hurtful, requires correct anatomical knowledge for its safe and proper accomplishment. The indispensable value of a thorough practical acquaintance with the science, was earnestly impressed upon his students by John Hunter. It is said, when Dr. Physick was placed under him as a private pupil, he led the young student into his dissecting-room, and pointing to *materiel*, observed, "these are the books the students will use under my direction." And it is not by slight or general views of Anatomy that the surgeon can become accomplished in his noble art, but rather by a just and complete knowledge of its minutiæ. During the dark ages, when surgery held no elevated rank,—the operative surgeon (so-called) resigned to the physician the laborious and difficult task of examining and understanding the bodily organization; whilst the former were agents or assistants for the latter; but this second-hand knowledge was insufficient; the art was rude and cruel compared with its present perfection; and its practitioners performed with equal skill the honorable and useful duties of barber and surgeon.

I am not insensible of the many peculiarities of my branch which gives greatly the vantage ground to other departments of study with the unthinking observer. I have none of the brilliant experiments of the chemist with which to delight and attract you, or the ingenious theories of the physiologist to elicit your curiosity, and thus challenge your admiration; but it is the intrinsic nature of my subject, "*per se*," that must attract your attention; plain fact and demonstration must appeal to your intellect and memory, and thus excite your reflection. And what branch of medical education is more worthy of deep, untiring research and profound meditation? In studying Anatomy, you are unfolding a piece of God's architecture, formed with surpassing perfection, and beautifully adapted to pre-conceived purposes of design.

Let us briefly scan our subject, and point out some interesting facts for contemplation.

The osseous system forms the frame work or foundation which gives support, strength and form to the body; and in order that freedom of movement, and every variety of position can be assumed with ease, it is constituted of separate pieces, jointed together with unyielding ligaments, and the contiguous extremities tipped with elastic cartilage; and that attrition may be avoided, a pellucid fluid is constantly effused upon their surfaces.

And how beautiful are the different articulations arranged to subserve different purposes; thus the diarthrodial joint admits of an extensive range of motion, whilst the synarthrodial admits of no motion, but possessed of great strength. How admirable are the bones of the fore-arm arranged. The ulna and humerus form a ginglymoid joint, to give the motions of flexion and extension, and the radius adapted to roll over it in supination and pronation, thus affording free motion to the hand, that wonderful instrument, by which man has achieved wonders of art, and erected enduring monuments of his glory.

The most complicated portion of the human skeleton is the spinal column; "and when viewed as a whole, applying its figure and processes to its uses, we are lost in admiration, in perceiving there is not the smallest tubercle, the most minute foramen, or the most trifling circumstance in its configuration, but which is indispensable in securing the perfection of the entire column;" it is both firm and flexible, adapted for the performance of various, difficult, and almost inconsistent offices, and has located within it one of the most important organs of the body. A distinguished writer has observed "I challenge any man to produce in the joints and pivots of the most complicated or flexible machine ever contrived, a contrivance more evidently artificial, than that seen in the vertebræ of the human neck."

In the skull is found a singular and wise arrangement, constituted of separate and distinct pieces, the design of which is well appre ciated by the accoucheur; at birth they are loosely connected and admit of compression, but in after life are joined in a manner well calculated for strength and firmness, thus affording protection to the brain, the seat of intelligence and reason.

Well might the genius of the gloomy Byron break through his cloud of misanthropy, and exclaim, when gazing upon a dilapidated human skull,—

> "This is a temple, where a God may dwell;
> Look on its broken arch, its ruined wall,
> Its chambers desolate, its portals foul.
> Yes! this was once ambition's airy hall,
> The dome of thought, the palace of the soul;
> Behold, through each lack-lustre, eyeless hole,
> The gay recess of wisdom and of wit.
> Can all, saint, sage, or sophist ever wrote,
> People this lonely tower, this tenement refit."

The ribs are arranged in an arched form, and pursue an oblique direction, allowing a reciprocal enlargement and contraction of the thorax at each inspiration and expiration, and acting in conjunction with the diaphragm, they form a vital bellows of mysterious construction. They articulate at one extremity with the vertebræ, and at the other with the sternum by means of elastic cartilage, thus forming an arrangement admitting of free motion without any disarrangement of contiguous parts; and at each inspiration, the sternum is projected one-tenth of an inch, and the lungs receive forty cubic inches of air.

Although the bones are formed and modelled to serve different purposes in the animal economy, some for motion, others for strength, and a third class combining both of these properties, they are inert; and hence the muscles subserve the purposes of locomotion. These organs are endowed with an intrinsic power of contractility. Some are possessed with a large mass of fibres, whilst others are extremely minute, and even beyond the reach of naked vision.

By the power of the gastrocnemius muscle, the whole body can be raised; whilst the delicate muscles of the tympanum, so fix the auditory apparatus, that the lowest whisper of the human voice, or the faintest murmur of distant music, can be heard with the same ease as the sound of canon or a thunder peal. The muscles, in addition to their power, give symmetry to the frame. Those of circulation, respiration, and digestion, are involuntary, and by their incessant and independent action, work important processes of life, and wisely placed beyond the reach of volition. To muscles are attached tendons, which serve as the medium of attachment to bones, playing like the ropes of a ship, through pulleys and around processes of bone, and by these means executing curious movements.

Through every part of the system are found vessels, which divide and subdivide into minute twigs, beyond the reach of unassisted vision, penetrating every tissue, organ, and even bone, carrying to them a nutritious fluid from which is separated all the various and widely different secretions of the body. The heart acting as a mysterious engine, whose ceaseless contractions propel the blood to every part of the body, through these myriad passages; day and night, asleep or awake, this action goes on at the rate of one hundred thousand strokes per day, without an alarming pause, from infancy to old age, and without injury to its delicate and complex structure. The nerves extend like telegraphic wires over the whole system, conveying the mandates of the will from the brain, the great organ of the mind, and bringing to the intellect, the enthroned monarch within, intelligence of the mighty universe, and surrounding objects.

After this fashion, we could occupy your attention for hours; we could extend our remarks, and examine each individul bone, articulation, muscle, viscus, vessel, and nerve, and show there is not the smallest item misplaced in the human economy. Each component part has its end and use, and illustrates beyond cavil, the infinite wisdom manifested in the building up of the human body. How true is the remark of Bacon, "the human body may be compared from its complex and delicate organization, to a musical instrument of the most perfect construction, but still liable to derangement."

In the foregoing remarks, I have endeavored to impress upon you the value and beauty attending anatomical investigation. I have shown you that a knowledge of it is an essential requirement for you as ministers of ease and comfort, at the bed-side of the sick and dying. Historical record has been adduced to prove its past influence upon the progressive development of medical science; and although I have fortified this position by drawing a parallel with other departments of study, do not understand me to undervalue their import. The different departments of our science are necessarily connected; they are governed by similar influences; they form an unbroken circle; and notwithstanding, in times past, through individual genius and industry, one part has out-rivalled the other for a period, and assumed a bolder, freer and more elevated position, it only shed a radiant light which eventually enlivened the whole constellation.

A knowledge of medicine, therefore, implies an acquaintance with Anatomy, or the formation of the human organization; Physiology, or the science of life; Pathology, or the cause and result of diseased action; Surgery, a science, and an art; Obstetrics, or that most delicate branch of our profession in which the life of both mother and offspring are involved; Materia Medica, or a knowledge of the various medicinal substances, animal, vegetable and mineral, with their natural properties, as well as their application to the cure of diseases; Institutes of Medicine, or the history and nature of diseases, with their proper treatment; Botany, or a knowledge of plants; Chemistry, which, by unfolding the laws of the combinations of matter, throws light upon the nature of remedial agents, and explains the influence of physical forces upon the body;—these branches will constitute the curriculum of study in this Institution. Over this wide field you must not travel hastily, but with the careful, untiring diligence of explorers; and with each one of these branches you must obtain an intimate acquaintance, before you can honorably offer yourselves to your fellow-men as qualified for the responsible duties of your chosen calling.

We are convened in these halls to take the initiative to a course of study. We are centered here to equip ourselves for future duties and responsibilities; and permit me, in the name of the Faculty, to welcome you to the privileges of this Institution, and introduce you to its labors. We are assured by virtue of your undertaking, that you come actuated by correct motives, governed as you doubtless are, by noble and unimpeachable purposes, with willing minds, exercising a commendable zeal, which will work out your ordained plans, and an enduring energy which will carry you onward to the accomplishment of desired ends; for, permit me to impress upon you the fact, that in the profession of Medicine, as in any other great undertaking of life, perseverance and industry engrafted upon a sound and liberal education, are the only sure measures of success. It is true, we may not be able to gain the prize for which we strive, though the surest means and best directed efforts be used with assiduity. We may crave a position which may never be our good fortune to occupy;—essay tasks which Nature has ordained for other minds more suitable for their accomplishment. But after having rightly estimated the value of our guest, and instituted self-examination, permit no obstacles to impede our onward course. Failing to do this, the ambition of many far exceeds their capacity, to execute their glowing schemes. They see the prize shining resplendent in the distance, obscured by scarcely a cloud; without weighing obstacles, they rush wildly on, toiling, striving, and hoping, until hope itself, as years roll away and the desired object remains unreached, at length forsakes them, and they awake when too late, to retrace their steps; they see the shadows of by-gone years fade away, youth past, manhood reached, and old age creeping on apace, they live baffled and defeated, changed and broken-hearted, or die burthened with regrets, and melancholy memories of the past. Such are to be pitied; they are wrecks strewn upon the shoals of life,—broken relics which call upon the passing wayfarer to weigh well the value of that for which he toils, and expends his energies.

In other pursuits, genius, wealth, or noble birth may do much, but not all; but in medicine, all these combined are of little avail, unless aided by a well-directed and patient course of study. Genius, destitute of industry, is like the phosphorescence of the ocean-wave, or lightning flash in a summer cloud, which glitters and corruscates, but never warms and enlivens; brilliant and beautified, but tracing no letters of living light. Magnificent images may dance before the mind of the poet, grand truths before the soul of the philosopher, but they will perish, and their tomb be in the mind that gave them birth, unless there is a life-giving energy, at whose potent wand they are awakened from their cloistered cell, and sent forth, prepared to enliven and benefit mankind. Vain are the glowing pictures touched by fancy's magic pencil, giving deceitful promise of cherished objects gained, and ends secured; frail are the gorgeous castles built of air, and peopled with angel images, hopes and happiness; they are like the soothing sleep which overcomes the freezing traveller on some mountain's height, fraudulent and deceptive. It is characteristic of many to engage ardently and enthusiastically for a time in their plans and pursuits; it is characteristic of few only to plod on hopefully until the desired object is attained; the latter trait alone will enable you to come up to the demands of a reasonable ambition in the profession you have chosen. Recollect, "There is a tide in the affairs of man, if taken at the flood leads on to fortune." Enter the arena of science untrammelled and unmasked; investigate and explain the mysterious operation of Nature's laws, and draw from her inexhaustible storehouse, lessons of wisdom and gems of truth, and the future is full of hope and fruition.

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